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1. Ulbricht made a speech before the SED Central Committee on the recent Soviet note proposing a European security conference on 29 November 1954. Ulbricht stated that the Soviet note did not come as a surprise to the GDR government. It had, however, not been expected that the Soviets would suggest a specific date for the conference. According to Ulbricht, the Soviet note implied a de facto recognition of the sovereignty of the GDR and indicated that the Kremlin was not going to make real concessions in the solution of the German question. GDR functionaries seem to believe that the Soviets are working for a status of co-existence between the GDR and West Germany. SED politicians pointed out in this connection that the USSR is not willing to trade socialist achievements in the GDR for Western concessions. In circles of the CDU-Ost, the view is held, however, that the USSR is resolved to make a last attempt to prevent the implementation of the London and Paris agreements and that the Soviets will be ready to make far-reaching concessions if the Western powers accept the plan of discussing an all-European security system at a West-East conference.
2. In regard to the foreign political development and the international status of the GDR, it was believed that the USSR would soon recognize the sovereignty of the GDR. A subsequent step would be a contractual guarantee given by all East-Bloc countries for the present borders of the GDR. The remilitarization in East Germany will not be conducted openly before the organization of West German divisions. The sharpest fight will be waged against the rearmament of West Germany, but at the same time efforts to intensify all-German conferences and discussions in all fields of cultural and sport activities will continue. After the West German rearmament has become a fact, the GDR will rearm openly and at a rapid rate; all military stations will be occupied by GDR armed forces, which will include air forces and naval forces. Occupation troops will be withdrawn to prepared positions immediately behind the Oder and Neisse Rivers, a military [redacted] will be concluded between the East-Bloc countries, including [redacted] and the Socialist course

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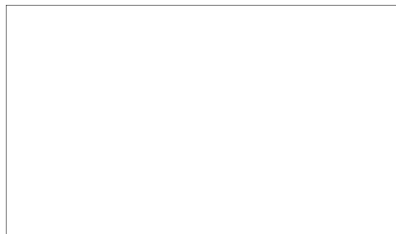
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3. The Socialist course in the GDR has been intensified for some time. This policy became apparent after the publication of the proclamation in the "Neues Deutschland" newspaper on 13 November 1954. A new "Kulturkampf" on a limited scale is in the offing. This "Kulturkampf" will include attempts to isolate all circles of the population supporting the church and, above all, the majority of clergymen. Efforts to influence young persons will be stepped up, but direct attacks against the church will be avoided, except on special occasions. The church or the "Junge Gemeinde" organization will not be persecuted and the agitation against church membership will mainly be conducted internally at party schools and within the KVP. The religious character of old feast days will gradually be destroyed and these feasts will be converted into pure secular festivals. Christmas for example will be celebrated as a people's Christmas designed to support the peace campaign of the régime.



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